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JUN 24 1988

17th June 1988

NOTED Our ref: PAS/CS/27843
Your ref: 19376/3E

COPY

Dear Sirs,

Turkish Patent Application No.30483/86 pm 1221
Philip Morris Inc. - Our file: 27843

Thank you for your letter of 8th March reporting the issue of a Search Report to which an answer is due by 4th August.

The Search Report is, of course, identical with that issued on the corresponding European Application. We do not think that it necessitates any kind of amendment of the claims in the present application. Those claims require a three-stage process of treatment with liquid ammonia, removal of the ammonia with the dissolved tobacco components and recombination of the dissolved components with the treated tobacco. British Specification 345,249 shows in Example 2 treatment of tobacco leaves with liquid ammonia resulting in the taking of nicotine and resinous substance into solution. However, the solution in liquid ammonia is then removed and there is no recombination step. The object of the process in U.K. 345,249 is to remove particular components from the tobacco whereas the present invention merely treats certain components which are then reintroduced into the tobacco in order to modify the smoke flavour characteristics.

Turning to U.S. Specification 2,805,669 this is concerned with the formation of a tobacco extract by the use of alcohol as a solvent. There is no question of using liquid ammonia. The dissolved material is then used for treating cigarette paper and is not reintroduced into the tobacco itself.

U.S. Specification 3,742,962 is again a process for removal of nicotine from tobacco but in this case the removal is carried out by treatment with ammonia gas and steam not with liquid ammonia. Finally, European Specification No. 0011368 is once again concerned with reducing the amount of nicotine in tobacco by removing the nicotine on to a ~~resilient~~ substrate. Again the agent used is an ammonium salt of a strong acid not liquid ammonia.

We suggest that you submit arguments on the above basis showing that the claims are allowable over the documents listed in the Search Report.

Yours faithfully,

P.A.SMITH

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